

Joseph A. Howland

Worcester,

8 Loudon Street.

Mass.

ms. B.1.6 v.11, p.73

Worcester April 6 1887

Dear Friend May

I have at hand
your note of 4th I attended
the Antiquity meeting last evening,
as I often do, and usually when
anything of interest is up.

Mr. Coolidge made a very
handsome and interesting
paper on Dr. Nelson quite just
and appreciative, I think,
generally complimentary and
eulogistic of him as a good
man, with no special claim
for greatness, and practically
admitting his lack of boldness
and aggressiveness in reform.
Claiming for him generally an
Anti Slavery sentiment, yet
stating that he did not appear
the cause of the Abolitionists

and could not work ~~nothing~~

And although the eulogy
was perhaps more fulsome
than either you or Rev. Geo.
Allen would have made,
yet there was hardly anything
in it that either you or G.A.
would care publicly to censure.

I tried to get hold of the man-
uscript to copy some passages
for you, but the reporter had it
till near midnight, and it
was so late, I went home without
it, perhaps I can still reach
it, if it has not been returned
to Mr. Coolidge.

At the time Mr. Eli Shays
gave the Society his history of
his Kansas enterprise, and
put in it his philippic against
Mr. Garrison and his associates.
I felt that it ought not to go

unsuboked, as I mentioned
to you on the train, but have
waited to see it in print, as
he finally shaped it, mean-
while, firing one thing at him
as you will see on page 87
of the Society's proceedings for
1886 just out. And you will
find Mr. Thayer's assault
on page 21 and 44 to 52
Now I think there should be
placed on record some ex-
planation and full state-
ment of the Garrisonian
position on this question.
And wish you would pre-
pare a paper for the Society
that will cover the ground.
Of course I do not advise a
merely denigratory paper or indeed
a controversial one, but a
fair candid exposition of

the Garrisonian philosophy
such as you know how
to make and could do
so harmoniously and successfully.
And perhaps the paper might
point should be incidental
to some other leading topic
say a sketch of S. S. and A. H.
Foster's lives, or some other
salient point. And when
ready, stop with us, and
visit the night after, and we
will try and make you comfortable.
Or if you should not feel equal
to the making, I will try and
read it for you to the Society.
We are quite sorry to learn
that you are so poorly, this
inclement winter, but hope
as the Spring opens, which we
expect it may. You will improve.
With kind regards to you and yours
Truly, Joseph Sturges